

**DODGE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
127 EAST OAK STREET
JUNEAU, WI 53039
December 22, 2014**

The Dodge County Land Conservation Committee (LCC) met on December 22, 2014 beginning at 8:30 AM in Rooms 1H and 1I of the Dodge County Administration Building.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Ed Nelson at 8:30 AM with the following members present: Ed Nelson, Dale Macheel, Gerald Adelmeyer, Bill Muche, Howard Kriewald, Larry Bischoff, and Bill Foley.

Other Dodge County Board Members, Dodge County Staff and Agency Advisors Present: Marc Bethke, Dodge County Land Conservation Department (LCD) County Conservationist; and Jeff Hoffman, Dodge County UWEX.

Others Present: Ruth Johnson and Greg Farnham, Lake Sinissippi Improvement District Commissioners.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PERMIT CHAIR TO DEVIATE FROM AGENDA TO EFFICIENTLY CONDUCT MEETING: Motion by Muche to approve the agenda and to permit the Chair to deviate from the agenda to efficiently conduct the meeting, seconded by Kriewald. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Kriewald to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014 as sent by mail; seconded by Bischoff. Motion carried.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENTS: Ruth Johnson shared copies of an updated request to the Dodge County Land Conservation Committee regarding the development of an ordinance requiring conservation buffers along county waterways. Greg Farnham again urged the committee to be active in contacting state legislators representing Dodge County regarding the call for state action over the problems being caused by the land spreading of large volumes of liquid manure on Dodge County cropland. Greg also spoke in support of Ruth Johnson's request for a conservation buffer ordinance.

AGENCY ADVISOR REPORTS: There were no agency advisor reports.

REVIEW OF BILLS AND REVENUES: The committee reviewed bills and revenues as shown on the attached listing.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW AND REVISED CONSERVATION PLANS: Motion by Foley to approve signing new and revised conservation plans; seconded by Kriewald. Motion carried.

CONSIDER EXPANDED USE OF VEGETATED BUFFERS IN DODGE COUNTY: The committee again discussed the request by Ruth Johnson to enact a conservation buffer ordinance in Dodge County. Marc Bethke shared a two page email from Assistant Corporation Counsel Zev Kianovsky regarding the authority of Dodge County to create such an ordinance, and some of the issues that could arise from creating such an ordinance. While it is clear that Dodge County has the authority to create this type of ordinance, it would be necessary to provide cost sharing for conservation practices required to be installed under the ordinance, and it may result in legal challenges by those who would be required to convert land from cultivated use to vegetated buffers. Marc Bethke stated that Minnesota has a statewide buffer ordinance which will be the topic of a session at the annual meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Association next March. The committee was encouraged to consider the contents of Mr. Kianovsky's email message for consideration and discussion at future Land Conservation Committee meetings.

CONSIDER 2014 LAND AND WATER COST SHARE AGREEMENTS EXTENSION REQUEST:

A form was distributed requesting that the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) extend several signed, but not completed, 2014 Land & Water Resource Management cost-share contracts into 2015. Motion by Bischoff to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the 2014 Land & Water Resource Management Cost-Share Extension Request; seconded by Kriewald. Motion carried. Copies of the monthly Land & Water Resource Management cost-share report were distributed.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM – CONSIDER CANCELLING NOTICES OF

NONCOMPLIANCE: One Cancellation of a Notice of Noncompliance under the Farmland Preservation Program was presented for committee consideration. Motion by Muche to authorize the Chair to sign a Cancellation of Notice of Noncompliance under the Farmland Preservation Program for Steven Grulke, Town of Theresa; seconded by Foley. Motion carried.

COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST MONTHLY REPORT: SIGNIFICANT WORK ACTIVITIES, MEETINGS AND OTHER ISSUES: Marc Bethke presented the monthly County Conservationist's Report (see attached report).

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS: Bill Foley reported that the biomass study on Beaver Dam Lake has been completed. The Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association is continues to work on the healthy lakes program to establish more buffers in lake shore areas. Bill attended the public hearing on December 4th for the Kooiker Farms WPDES permit in the Town of Fox Lake. Bill asked the committee to consider sending a letter of support regarding a Dane County resolution calling for proper actions by the DNR when considering issuance of permits for high capacity wells. Dale Macheel reported attending the public hearing for the Kooiker Calves WPDES permit on December 4th. The Fox Lake Inland Lake District continues to work closely with the Town of Fox Lake to correct perceived deficiencies in their building permit process, and to encourage the town board to enact a town ordinance to better protect water quality.

CORRESPONDENCE: Copies of the minutes of the November 2014 meeting of the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District were distributed to committee members.

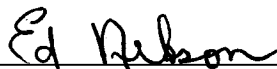
PER DIEMS: Motion by Muche, seconded by Kriewald to approve the regular per diems, in addition to the following:

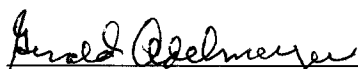
Dale Macheel – WPDES Permit public hearing on December 4, 2014 – per diem and 22 miles.

Dale Macheel – Fox Lake Inland Lake District Meeting on December 11, 2014 – per diem and 22 miles. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, January 26, 2015 beginning at 8:30 AM in Room 3A of the Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, Wisconsin.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before this committee, motion by Muche to adjourn at 10:20 AM; seconded by Kriewald. Motion carried.


Ed Nelson, Chair


Gerald Adelmeyer, Secretary

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.

LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BILLS & REVENUE

(BILLS)

Wheeler's Laura's Lane Nursery - 25% Down Payment on 2015	
Small Packet Trees =	\$ 4,482.00
Land & Water Cost Share Payments to Two Landowners =	\$ 2,517.87
Gault Properties, LLC - Manure Storage Earnest Fee Repayment =	\$ 500.00
TOTAL =	\$ 7,499.87

(REVENUE)

DATCP - Reimbursement for Three Land & Water Cost	
Share Projects =	\$ 17,896.75
DNR- Third Quarter Wildlife Crop Damage Program Expenses	
Reimbursement =	\$ 5,164.62
One Manure Storage Ordinance Permit Fee (Manure Transfer Only) =	\$ 400.00
Two (2) FPP Service Fee Payments =	\$ 50.00
Three (3) FPP Late Certification Penalty Fees =	\$ 150.00
Sales Proceeds From Green S-10 Pickup Truck =	\$ 1,665.00
30 - Small Packet Tree Orders =	\$ 2,630.33
TOTAL =	\$ 27,956.70

DECEMBER 2014 COUNTY CONSERVATIONIST REPORT

SIGNIFICANT WORK ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS:

- Participated by telephone in the December 10, 2014 meeting of the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association Board of Directors to explain reasons behind, and the purpose for, the liquid manure resolutions adopted by the Dodge County Board and the Southern Area Land & Water Conservation Association. The Board voted unanimously to recommend approval by the membership at the annual conference in March 2015.
- Processed payments to several 2014 Land & Water Resource Management cost-shared project landowners – prepared cost-share extension request for others that could not be completed in 2014.
- Reviewed recent air photos for Towns of Chester, Trenton, Fox Lake, Williamstown and Burnett to identify prospective projects and future contacts for soil erosion control and water quality protection work.
- Have begun taking calls from landowners and CPA's with questions over conservation compliance requirements and tax credit benefits of the Farmland Preservation Program.
- Continue to sell small packs of trees – sales are similar to this time in 2013.